

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1881.

Announcements To-Day.

Asher's Park Theatre—The Master, Malina. **Alfredo**, **Adrienne**, **Mathilde**. **Belle**, **Giulio**, **Giulietta**. **Giuliette**, **Mathilde**. **Chilberg's Theatre**—**Giuliette**, **Mathilde**. **Grand Opera House**—**Mathilde**. **Matthes**. **Metropolitan Opera House**—**Mathilde**. **Natoma**. **W. H. Smith's Theatre**—**Giuliette**, **Mathilde**. **Madison Square Theatre**—**Giuliette**, **Mathilde**. **Metropolitan Concert Hall**—**Giuliette**. **Middleton's Dome Museum**—**Giuliette**. **Souvenir Opera House**—**Mathilde**. **Metternich's Opera House**—**Giuliette**, **Mathilde**. **W. E. Buckley's Theatre**—**Mathilde**. **Madison Square**—**Walter Scott**, **Mathilde**.

Jay Gould alias Stanley Matthews.

At last, by a majority of one vote, Mr. JAY GOULD, under the name of STANLEY MATTHEWS of Ohio, has been confirmed by the Senate as a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States.

To the credit of the Republican side of the Senate, he it said that this astonishing event has been accomplished by the votes of Democratic Senators. It is these chosen representatives of the Democratic party who have elevated MATTHEWS to a dignity of which he is unworthy.

Perhaps the most noteworthy among the circumstances of this affair is the fact that the confirmation of Mr. MATTHEWS seems to have been achieved through the earnest assistance of Mr. JOSEPH E. McDONALD of Indianapolis, who ceased to be a member of the Senate but a few weeks ago. Mr. McDONALD is not merely a professing Democrat; he is a leader of the Democracy. Indeed, it is not too much to say that he would have been nominated for President last year instead of Gen. HANCOCK, but for the opposition of his townsmen, Mr. HENDRICKS; and up to the present time it had not appeared improbable that in 1884 the Democracy might confer upon Mr. McDONALD the high distinction which he so narrowly failed to gain in 1880.

Now, however, the situation is profoundly changed. Whatever individuals styling themselves Democrats may do, the National Convention of the party can never select for its candidate a man who has given to JAY GOULD the control of the Supreme Court.

The Battle with the Rings.

The speech of Postmaster-General JAMES at the Chamber of Commerce dinner was not all concerned that he and Attorney-General MACVEAGH had formed an alliance offensive and defensive against the Post Office Rings, and were ready for a war of extermination. Mr. JAMES was also very careful to say that they were not only supported by the President, but were acting under his explicit instructions to do the work thoroughly.

It is possible that these gentlemen have measured the power of the Rings, and considered their relations with the leaders and organization of the Republican party. If they have, they know that the battle before them will be long and desperate, and without the most undeserved cooperation of the President it will certainly be lost by the Government. But they think they have the President with them; and if they entertain any secret doubts on the subject, they are too politic to proclaim them at this stage in regard to the Whiskey Ring. "Let no guilty man escape." But the moment the trial of the Whiskey Ring is reported to have begun, and in any event is powerless to enforce its lessons. In fact, the British taxpayer does not live in one district, but in many districts. For some purposes he is in the hands of the county justices, who have a debt for asylums and prisons; for other purposes he is governed by guardians who contract loans for workhouses, and perhaps for drains; for still other purposes the ratepayer is taxed by a School Board, who incur a debt for schools. So with highways, and perhaps with cemeteries. A word, it is impossible to bring home to the British taxpayer the dangerously growing volume of his local indebtedment, until the tax-exempt areas have been simplified and the governing bodies consolidated.

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them. Large sums were squandered, for example, upon that gigantic piece of folly, the Thames tunnel. Much, also, of the money laid out under the Sanitary acts has been worse than wasted, millions having been spent in pouring the fifth of towns into the rivers, while now millions must be spent in getting it out again. The municipal bonds contracted for the erection or purchase of gas works are likely to prove a grave charge upon the taxpayer should the electric light supersede, to any considerable extent, the use of gas. And in general it may be said, in view of the rapid progress made in the applied sciences, that much of the money invested during the last twenty years will be found to have been thrown away. Now, where the money has been borrowed in the open market, and the ratepayers of a given area are directly chargeable, there is but little doubt that both principal and interest will, in the majority of instances, be paid, although the proceeds of the loan should prove to have been totally wasted. Yet even, under these circumstances, the extended terms for which the money has been borrowed, viz., forty, fifty, sixty, and in some cases a hundred years, introduces an element of insecurity. It is obvious that industrial revolutions might bring about great changes in the distribution of population, and that cities once flourishing might be reduced to a state of relative indigence.

Where, on the other hand, the money has been procured through the intervention of the Public Works Loan Commissioners—and a year ago they had advanced in this way upward of \$200,000,000—there is much less prospect of the loan's being repaid by the parties benefited in case the investment should prove a failure. As a matter of fact, the State, according to Sir STANFORD NORTHCOTE, instead of receiving three per cent. on the sums advanced for local purposes, has really obtained only a little more than half of one per cent. on the total of the loans. So long as debts were remissible by a treasury warrant, Government loans to local borrowers were continually wiped out without the knowledge of Parliament. Even now, when a statute is necessary, and when it might be supposed that the nation at large would be unwilling to burden itself for the sake of a single locality, it is found in practice very easy to pass an act throwing the weight of local debts upon the public revenues. The fact is that deficits in local taxation attract very little attention, although the items on which there is default are annually increasing in amount.

Everything connected with this matter of local indebtedness is in extreme confusion. There are so many authorities intrusted with the right to borrow, and so many systems of collection to meet the obligation incurred, that it is impossible for the taxpayers to know what is taking place, or to exercise efficient control. If, in Great Britain, the ratepayer's district were the same for all purposes, and were governed by one body, he would know the total debt of his district, and would jealousy watch its growth. As things are, he can scarcely ascertain the truth, and in any event is powerless to enforce its lessons. In fact, the British taxpayer does not live in one district, but in many districts. For some purposes he is in the hands of the county justices, who have a debt for asylums and prisons; for other purposes he is governed by guardians who contract loans for workhouses, and perhaps for drains; for still other purposes the ratepayer is taxed by a School Board, who incur a debt for schools. So with highways, and perhaps with cemeteries. A word, it is impossible to bring home to the British taxpayer the dangerously growing volume of his local indebtedment, until the tax-exempt areas have been simplified and the governing bodies consolidated.

It is true enough that thus far Great Britain does not suffer so much as the United States from the weight of local indebtedness. But in that country the movement in this direction has only begun, and of late years the practice of borrowing for local purposes has increased at a rate wholly unparalleled on this side of the Atlantic; nor is there any reason to believe that greater economy will prevail when the suffrage has been widened, and the British Government has more completely passed into the hands of the people. Already the local taxes intended for specific purposes weigh more heavily on the landed classes and on many of the townpeople than do their contributions to the public revenue. Of course it may be said that while the greater portion of the national debt is the outcome of costly and sometimes useless wars, the local indebtedness was continually interrupted by the exigencies of the war, and by the want of the requirements of a higher civilization. No doubt much good has been effected, but many millions, as we have shown, have been wasted; and far more serious losses are threatened in the future unless the local taxpayers are awakened to a keener sense of responsibility. At the present rate of increase, the local indebtedment of Great Britain would represent, at the end of half a century, an amount equivalent to the present volume of the national debt.

More Light on Dorsey.

Ex-Senator DORSEY is impatiently waiting to be investigated. We suppose his turn will come in due time. Meanwhile, we print some more facts and figures which will be of interest to the prominent Republicans who entertained him at Delmonico's, and who have already learned something of the "expedition" of their dinner bills.

There is no doubt that STEPHEN W. DORSEY, while a Senator of the United States, held no contracts in his own name. His brother and brother-in-law held some very valuable contracts, which the ex-Senator managed to acquire at a nominal cost within thirty days after he laid aside the toga.

There is no doubt that the death of Senator DORSEY has been encouraged by numerous acts of Parliament, which make it possible for local authorities to obtain loans for a long term of years upon security which, in too many instances, is very questionable. These loans have been contracted by local and municipal boards. Some statistics which exhibit the serious and fast-growing weight of these obligations have been collected for the current number of the *Edinburgh Review*.

Up to twenty years ago, the sums borrowed for specific purposes and charged upon the taxpayers of particular localities were inconceivable. Since that date, however, extravagance has been encouraged by numerous acts of Parliament, which make it possible for local authorities to obtain loans for a long term of years upon security which, in too many instances, is very questionable. These loans have been contracted by local and municipal boards. Some statistics which exhibit the serious and fast-growing weight of these obligations have been collected for the current number of the *Edinburgh Review*.

In 1876 Gen. GRANT nominated DON PARDEE, formerly Major in Gen. GARFIELD's regiment and one of his intimates, for United States District Judge in Louisiana. Serious charges were preferred against him, and a Republican Senate laid the nomination on the table. This was a mild mode of rejection.

E. C. BILLINGS, who drew up drunken DURFEE's famous midnight order, and who was connected with KELLOGG's carpet-bag

atrocities, was then substituted for PARDEE, and was confirmed because of those partisan services.

Recently, when Mr. Justice WOODS was promoted to the Supreme bench, BILLINGS was nominated in his place for Circuit Judge. However, investigation by the Senate left BILLINGS where he now is, as District Judge.

GARFIELD then took up his old claim, PARDEE, who had once been discarded by his own party for a secondary Judgeship, and named him for Circuit Judge. What is most remarkable in this matter is the fact that Democratic Senators like BAYARD and LAMAR now voted to report this nomination favorably.

Mr. JONAS, Democrat from Louisiana, and Mr. KELLOGG, carpet-bagger from the same State, and the last of that race of patriots, both united on PARDEE, though they are ostensibly as far apart as the poles on other subjects. How they came to fraternize on this occasion is one of the mysteries of Washington, but it is less significant than Democratic support of STANLEY MATTHEWS, who compassed the great Fraud, and, having finally been confirmed, will go on the bench as the creature of JAY GOULD.

If Gen. GARFIELD were now a candidate for President, could he possibly be elected? Could a National Convention be assembled that would be willing to nominate him for President?

The Rev. DR. CROSBY advises temperance men whose hearts are in the cause to walk right into the liquor saloons in their neighborhood and say to the proprietors: "You are a nuisance." Before acting upon this advice it may be prudent for the temperance men to consider whether they belong to the class of muscular Christians, and, if they do not, to take a preparatory course of Indian clubs and dumb-bells.

The friends of immigrants who arrive at the port with the intention of going West would do well, if stories told in the German newspapers of Minnesota are truthful, to warn the new comers with special emphasis against the sharpers whom they are likely to encounter in Chicago. In that enterprising city immigrant boarding house and restaurant keepers are said to have attained more than usual ingenuity in the art of fleecing the helpless stranger, especially if he cannot speak English, being master only of some language, like Bohemian or Russian, that is not much spoken in the United States. It is also asserted that some railway employees and local officials are in league with these fellows; that they frequent the immigrant into the heads of the know-it-all, and then frighten them out of all thoughts of seeking refuge. One party in particular is especially mean in its conduct to the numbers of nineteen, that left New York with meager enough to reach their destination in Crookston, in the State of Minnesota. These unscrupulous strangers were pinched so unmercifully on the way that they reached St. Paul penniless, and would have been unable to go further but for aid furnished by countrymen of theirs whom they found there.

A woman died in the New York Hospital yesterday from the effects of a fall from a tight rope. Another woman is reported dying in Pittsburgh in consequence of being thrown from a maul. A man lies in Philadelphia suffering from a shoulder broken by a high leap and fall from a springboard. Those three persons have already been hurt in a single circus, thus early in the season, while amusing the public. We are full of condemnation for the barbarous sports of Rome two thousand years ago.

The decision to exclude advertising devices from a share in the next Decoration Day parade is commendable. In some former years the enterprise of business has taken advantage of these processions to display itself to the gaze of onlookers; and the sentiment of patriotism or of affectionate veneration for the memory of fallen heroes was continually interrupted by the ingenious trickery of the advertising men.

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Pennsylvania Politics.

HARRISBURG, May 11.—Pennsylvania has so long enjoyed the reputation of having the most vicious Legislature in the Union that it will probably be no surprise to your readers to be told that the present one is a disgrace to the Commonwealth. It met with the Busters sooner than advantage of by Conkling, who undoubtedly profits by it. I do not, however, perceive the immediate prospect of a square victory for him. As I have before said, Republican Senators are likely to rupture the party by going to extremes with Mr. Conkling. Nor do they pretend to justify, or even excuse Garfield. The shortcomings of Garfield render unqualified championship impossible. The extremes to which Conkling might lead render unquestioning devotion to him quite out of the question. This state of things tends to bring extremes together, at least creates such a desire, which is a description as good as any of the situation at the present moment.

Senators qualified to judge express the wish of getting away from Washington within two weeks. This in the mouth of leading Republicans is a declaration that the Mahone-Ridder-Gorger scheme is to be abandoned for the present. This, I conclude, may now be taken for granted.

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